

## China protests Japanese vessel transit through Taiwan Strait



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China on Friday lodged a formal protest with Japan after a Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force vessel transited the Taiwan Strait, according to official statements from Beijing.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said the move “severely threatens China’s sovereignty and security,” adding that Beijing firmly opposes such actions. He said Chinese

military forces monitored and handled the transit in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Japanese media, including Kyodo News, reported that an escort ship from Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force passed through the strait on Friday. However, Tokyo has not issued an official statement on the development.

China described the transit as evidence of increasing military involvement by Japan in the Taiwan Strait, warning that such actions could undermine regional peace and stability. Guo cautioned that the move risks damaging the political foundation of China-Japan relations.

Tensions between the two countries have risen in recent months, particularly after remarks by Sanae Takaichi suggesting Japan could invoke collective self-defense in a Taiwan-related crisis.

Beijing urged Japan to act prudently and avoid steps that could further escalate tensions.